

Budget

OLC #78-3579/3

DDS&T 6271-78
20 December 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

ATTENTION : Mark D. Cowen

SUBJECT : Proposed Legislative Program for the First
Session of the 96th Congress

REFERENCE : OLC 78-3579 dated 14 December 1978, Same
Subject

1. This memorandum plus a memorandum sent directly to your office by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service constitutes DDS&T's response to the referenced memorandum. (U)

2. With reference to Title IV - Educational Travel, USIA is now ICA. Also, please note that [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] and thus the question arises 25X1
whether the U.S. Government pays for the educational travel of dependents of these nationals to another country. (U)

3. Regarding Title V - Death Gratuities, we suggest the word "gratuity" be used in place of the word "gift" in the last sentence of Section 501(a). (U)

4. Regarding Title VIII - FOIA, we suggest a new paragraph be added to read:

(v) Publically available information such as information in public libraries and information from radio, television and news media publications.

In support of this suggestion, we offer the following information:

1. The FOIA and PA are intended to provide to the public information the government has compiled which is normally unavailable to the public and information that the public does not know the government has acquired concerning them.

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DS&T 6271-78

Page 2

2. Many requesters have specifically excluded in their requests information that is publically available such as newspaper and magazine clippings and public broadcasting reports. The IPS has established a policy of limiting the number of such open news documents supplied to a requester unless the requester desires otherwise. Search and reproduction costs of open news documents are, of course, borne by the requester.

3. We are of the opinion that the FOIA and PA were not intended to provide the public with information that is readily available by the public in libraries, newspapers, magazines, radio and TV broadcasts. The government should not be expected to become a news clipping service to individuals or companies including researchers, authors, and students writing thesis or term papers.

4. As a result we believe the exclusion of publically available information, such as information normally found in libraries and information from radio and television broadcasts, would not be detrimental to the rights and individuals, or deny information that individuals do not already know about themselves. Furthermore, this exclusion would constitute a significant savings to the taxpayer through a reduction in government costs. (U)

[Redacted Signature Box]

Executive Officer

DS&T

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